



NEWS RELEASE

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Multiple Life Sentences for Defendant in 2011 Halloween Murder of Good Samaritan

A 21-year-old man was sentenced today to life in prison without the possibility of parole plus multiple life terms for the murder of a good Samaritan in Canyon Country, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Bradley Lieberman said Diamonte Jerome McGhee of Canyon Country was found guilty on Oct. 30, 2014 of one count each of first-degree murder and second-degree robbery, four counts of attempted murder and five counts of assault with a semiautomatic firearm.

The jury found true a special circumstance allegation that the murder occurred during the commission of a robbery. And McGhee also was found to have personally fired the handgun during the murder and attempted murder.

Eric Michael Edwards, 21, of Lancaster was found guilty of one count each of first-degree murder and second-degree robbery and four counts each of attempted murder and assault with a semiautomatic firearm in case PA071844.

Edwards was sentenced to 30 years to life in state prison plus an additional four life terms on April 9.

Branden Trevaughn Higgs, 20, of Lancaster pleaded no contest to one count of voluntary manslaughter and two counts of attempted murder on April 15 and was immediately sentenced to 16 years and eight months in state prison.

On Oct. 31, 2011, Alejandro Sánchez-Tórrez was with his 7-year-old son when he witnessed the three co-defendants beating and robbing a victim, the prosecutor said. When Sánchez-Tórrez rushed to the victim's help, McGhee shot Sánchez-Tórrez in the chest, killing him in front of his son, the prosecutor added.

McGhee then shot the robbery victim on the leg, Lieberman said. The robbery victim survived his injuries.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.